

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend paragraph number [0036] as follows:

[0036] --The invention may be employed using sliders composed of any material suitable for use as a slider having appropriate thermal, electrical, magnetic and mechanical properties. Typically, sliders for magnetic heads are made from a hard material having a high modulus of elasticity. Such materials include ceramics such as carbides, nitrides, and oxides. Carbides such as aluminum carbide, silicon carbide, titanium carbide, boron carbide, germanium carbide, tungsten carbide, and mixed-metal carbides (e.g., AlTiC or Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>TiC) are generally preferred but other materials such as titanium oxide, silicon nitride and silicon may be used as well. In addition, it is preferred that the slider is sized to require only minimal material addition or removal in order to pattern the air-bearing surface.--